Promotion of natural gas

1649.SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas has emerged as the most preferred fuel or feedstock due to its inherent environmentally benign natural, greater efficiency and cost effectiveness;

(b) if so the steps taken to promote natural gas;

(c) whether there is a wide gap between demand and supply of natural gas in the country; and

(d) if so the measures taken to bridge the demand and supply gas of natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) It has been decided to convert naphtha and fuel oil based urea plants to natural gas. De-bottlenecking and expansion of existing gas based urea plants and revival of closed units on natural gas is also being taken up. Efforts are being made to make available Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas to a greater number of cities and towns throughout the country. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'.

(c) and (d) The demand for natural gas in the country is more than the availability. In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply natural gas, Government has adopted a multi pronged strategy. These cover:-

(i) Intensification of domestic E&P activities;

(ii) Exploitation of unconventional sources like Coal Bed Methane (CBM);

(iii) Underground coal gasification;

(iv) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;

(v) LNG Import;

(vi) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

Fake gas cylinders

†1650. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of fake gas cylinders are in circulation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases unearthed as on date during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) whether Government proposes to take steps to check the circulation of fake cylinders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported instances of large scale circulation of fake LPG cylinders in the country. However, there have been some instances when spurious cylinders were detected by the OMCs at the distributors' premises. During the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and April 2008 to November, 2008, OMCs have detected 75 number of spurious cylinders in the country. The year-wise and State-wise details are at Statement. (*See* below)

(d) and (e) OMCs are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufacturing process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard / spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped / crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

Apart from the legal action which could be taken against any supplier of spurious LPG equipment, in case any distributor is found in possession of spurious equipment or inducts such equipment in the distribution system, Marketing Discipline Guidelines provide, *inter-alia*, for confiscation of equipment, imposition of fine and recovery at penal rates for the first and second offences and termination of distributorship in the event of a third offence.

Statement

State-wise number of spurious LPG cylinders detected by OMCs during the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and April-November, 2008

State/UT	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	April-November, 2008
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	19	4
Gujarat	-	-	-	2
Maharashtra	-	6	-	-
Orissa	-	32	-	-
Rajasthan	-	-	2	2
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	6	2
TOTAL :	0	38	27	10

Bio-diesel

†1651. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi